SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 19

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

LIVE 88·5FM

Ottawa metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2015 High 16°C /Low 2°C Scattered showers

The *Heart* of Christmas

You don't have to be religious to understand the true meaning of the holidays. It's really just about good manners. Merry Christmas from everyone at Metro. XO!

Heartfelt advice from our etiquette expert Ellen Vanstone

metroVIEWS

SPORTING life BOXING DAY SALE

7 REASONS TO LINE UP AT 7 AM
ON DECEMBER 26TH

7 AM – 9 AM ONLY!

1

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2

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Men's & Women's

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3

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Men's, Women's & Children's

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4

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5

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7

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metro NEWS

Metro is not publishing on Christmas Day, but look for our special Time Capsule edition on Dec. 28.
We resume normal publication on Jan. 4.

Your essential daily news

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Public servants working to meet refugee deadline

IMMIGRATION

Feds' 10,000 target not guaranteed for end of the year

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

While many Canadians will soon be sleeping with visions of sugarplums dancing in their heads, hundreds of public servants are working around the clock in pursuit of the federal government's goal to bring 10,000 Syrian refugees here by Dec. 31.

More than 500 public servants — the bulk of them at Canadian government refugee processing centres in Amman, Jordan and Beirut, Lebanon — are working to identify, interview, screen and process the refugees before sending them on government flights bound for Toronto and Montreal.

"The people in the field are working incredibly hard and they've improved their techniques," Immigration Minister John McCallum said Wednesday, back from a visit to Jordan and Lebanon.

"This is something totally new. We've never done anything like this in our history at such speed," he added. "They are doing it as quickly as possible and over the days they are learning to do it smarter and more effectively."

Many of the staff are Canadian Forces members there to help with medical screening and gathering biometric data, such as fingerprints, McCallum said. The two processing centres are now "powerful machines," especially on the medical screening front. Officials are processing 800 cases per day in Amman and Beirut combined, he said.

Many staff are immigration department officials who are interviewing resettlement candidates. There are also Canada Border Services Agency officials, foreign affairs representatives and embassy staff.

Many public servants have relocated from other posts abroad, McCallum said.

> **"We've never done anything like this in our history.**
> John McCallum

8K

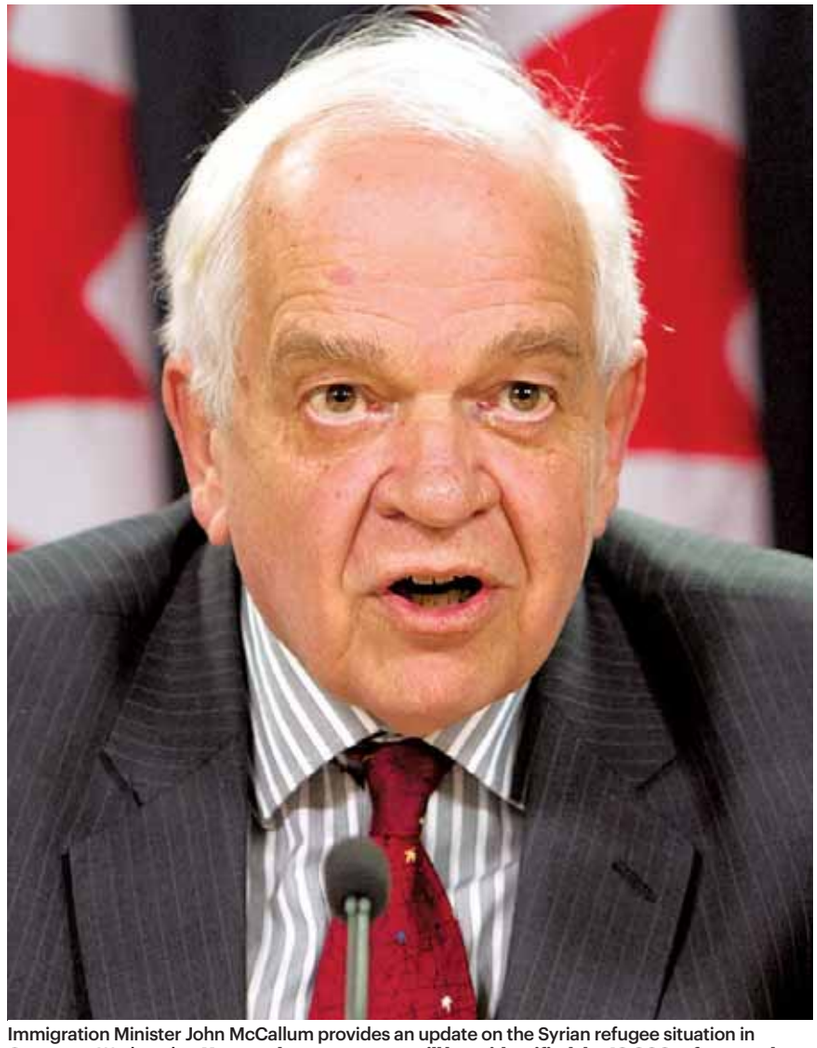
As of Wednesday, there were only eight more days to bring some 8,000 refugees into the country.

"I met people who have come literally from all over the world — from New York, from Hong Kong, from Mexico — to relocate temporarily in this region to help out on this process," he said.

According to the latest federal government numbers, by Wednesday night the government will have resettled 2,167 Syrian refugees in Canada since Nov. 4. Another 19,510 refugee resettlement applications are in progress.

McCallum said the government's goal is still to bring 10,000 refugees to Canada by the end of the year, but he couldn't guarantee it because there were only eight more days to bring some 8,000 refugees into the country.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



Immigration Minister John McCallum provides an update on the Syrian refugee situation in Ottawa on Wednesday. **He says the government will have identified the 10,000 refugees who will be on Canadian soil in the coming months by Dec. 31.** FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Moving heaven' to secure arrival

The federal government may not meet its goal of bringing 10,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of the year, Immigration Minister John McCallum said Wednesday.

"That certainly remains our target, we are working day and night to achieve it. But there are certain factors outside our control," McCallum told reporters during a briefing on the Syrian refugee effort.

Those factors include the weather, and refugees' potential unwillingness to leave on very short notice, McCallum said.

As of Monday, 1,869 Syrian refugees had arrived in Canada since Nov. 4. Another 300 were due to arrive in Montreal Wednesday evening. That means nearly 1,000 refugees per day would need to arrive in Canada between now and Dec. 31 to meet the government's target.

"We are moving heaven and earth to get them here as quickly as we can but to do it in a way that is correct and appropriate and takes due concern for security, medical and other issues," McCallum said.

During the election campaign, the Liberals promised to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of the year. Last month, the Liberals revised that goal, saying they would bring 25,000 by the end of February, including 10,000 by Dec. 31.

It appears that more modest goal might not be met.

However, McCallum said he's "very confident" that the 25,000 Syrian refugees will have landed in Canada as permanent residents before the end of February.

He also said 10,000 or more Syrian refugees will be certified as permanent residents by Dec. 31, whether or not they are on Canadian soil. MICHAEL WOODS/METRO

TECHNOLOGY

Entrepreneur says company's new app more than an Uber knockoff

Tom Pechlof
Ottawa Business Journal

When Toronto-based CellWand launched its new app, The Ride, on Dec.14, many media reports dubbed it the taxi industry's response to Uber.

It is, however, meant to be much more than that, says CellWand's Ottawa-based CEO, Nick Quain.

"We really wanted to do something beyond taxi," said Quain. "We wanted to make the ultimate transportation app because people who take taxis often take other forms of transportation. Taxis (are) just an option they use at a particular time."

For starters, the app not only lets the customer hail a cab anywhere in the country, it is also the first app to show the user the location of every taxi stand in Canada, said Quain.

"If you walk out in downtown Ottawa, there are taxi stands on the corner and in a lot of these places, e-hailing a cab from us or a ride-hailing app often doesn't make sense if you can walk 30 paces, look around a corner and see a cab stand with six cabs waiting there."

While comparisons to Uber are obvious, being the 'ultimate transportation app' means The Ride will also help users plan transit routes. What it means, says Quain, is the app will give the user options that may not generate any revenue for CellWand. And that is all part of the plan, he said.

"We want them to use this app. We want this to be their go-to app. There can be lots of circumstances where we don't make money through an engagement with them, but that's why they're going to come back."

5 WAYS TO SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE IN THE CITY

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Resist the temptation to sleep through the last of 2015 and instead welcome the new year with style — whatever your style may be. Whether you take OC Transpo's free transit after 8 p.m. or pile into an elusive taxi, Metro has the five best places to go this New Year's Eve.

1 Speakeasy special

Nothing like breaking the rules to get the party started. Head down to the Farm Team cellar on Sparks Street for the Bootlegger's Ball by Escape Manor. This prohibition-themed video dance party welcomes your best flapper or Al Capone look. Do you have the key to open the trunk full of prizes? There are $5 pints and signature cocktails all night, with a champagne toast at midnight.

2 Auld Lang Syne

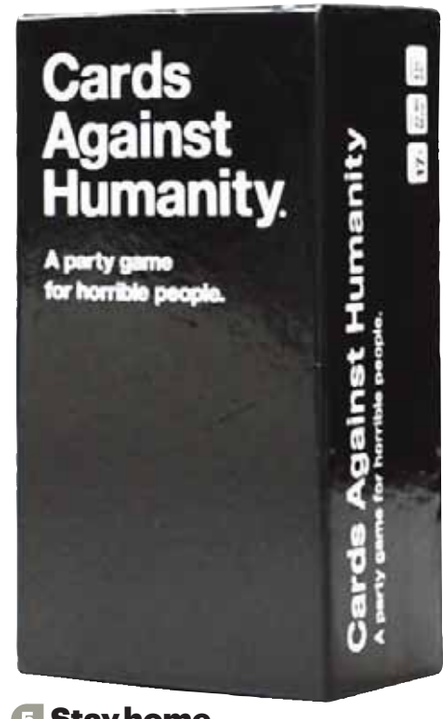
Bid farewell to 2015 like a true Scotsman at the free Hogmanay party at Lansdowne Park. The family-friendly event starts at 5 p.m. in the Aberdeen Pavilion and includes jugglers and a magic show for the kids, live music from the Glengarry Pipe Band and whisky tasting, food and fireworks. There's a 7 p.m. countdown for the kids, then another one for the adults at midnight.

3 Country in the capital

Looking for a Times Square feel? The closest you'll get is Sparks Street, where you can enjoy a free outdoor concert, a "maple leaf drop" at midnight and fireworks. Canadian country band Cold Creek County will headline the party, with local rock group Silver Creek and country singer Angela Marie warming up the crowds beginning at 8 p.m. Go early for dinner and a pint at the Bier Markt if you're feeling extra festive.

4 Goodbye to '15

Feeling wild? Get silly at three clubs in the Byward Market for only $15 cover. Liquor Store will host its Glow 2016 dance party — complete with LED wall and confetti canons — while the Green Room invites you to make 365 days of mistakes in one night. Seriously: you can dance on the tables. The Velvet Room is keeping it a tad classier, if you consider the Kardashians classy: you can dress your best and celebrate A Very Kardashian New Year's Eve just like your favourite (in)famous family, but only if you're 25 and up.



5 Stay home

If the thought of heading out for New Year's Eve makes you feel suddenly, inexplicably exhausted, for goodness' sake stay home. Invite a few friends over, use up the eggnog that's about to expire and open up that rude board game you got for Christmas. Party on, Wayne.

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Contractor fired for overpass delays

WALKLEY ROAD

Second phase to resume in spring 2016

Erin McCracken
Metroland Media

Rehabilitation of the Walkley Road Transitway overpass and Sawmill Creek culvert has stalled and the city has fired the general contractor hired to do the work for breach of contract, according to River ward's councillor.

Ottawa-based Dalcon Enterprises was hired in May to repair and update the span over the Transitway and the Sawmill Creek multi-use pathway, as well as do some drainage culvert work near the creek for $2.038 million.

Dalcon ran into "multiple delays all year," said River ward Coun. Riley Brockington. "It was all supposed to be done this calendar year. That's not possible."

"The city is now working with a bonding company to ensure the project is completed in 2016," Carina Duclos, a city design and construction manager, said in an email, noting "all construction activities will be suspended on the Walkley Road bridge construction project during the winter months."

In an email, the city said last month that once a new contractor is hired, workers are expected to be on site next May and complete the job in August.

Troubling signs loomed this fall — before the company filed its intent to declare bankruptcy on Nov. 26 — that led to the city terminating its contract with Dalcon on Dec. 1.

The city was advised on Nov. 24 "that the contractor was unable to fulfill its obligations under the contract," Jeff Byrne, the city's chief procurement officer, said in an email. "The city was formally advised of the contractor's insolvency on Dec. 11, 2015."

Brockington said he raised questions with city staff in September, three months after work started in June. The contract was awarded in May.

It was in mid-November — when the project was to have been completed — that word came the maintenance project wasn't going to meet deadline.

"So I inquired again and (city staff) said the delays are so significant that the project has now been cut into two phases," Brockington said, with the second phase rescheduled to begin in the spring.

Calls to Dalcon's head office were not answered or returned.

However, when reached for comment, Dalcon site superintendent Frank Boisvert, who did not oversee this project, confirmed there was talk the company was filing for bankruptcy and that there were just three employees remaining, down from 100 at its peak.

His last day with the company was this week.

Workers have recently been on site to secure it for the winter months and remove debris.

Despite the many delays, Brockington said these haven't created any safety issues with regards to the structural integrity of the overpass.

HOLIDAYS A SEASONAL BYWARD MARKET TRADITION
Lociano Prada, chestnut roaster of the ByWard Market, introduces some younger residents to the holiday treat. Prada has been selling paper bags of chestnuts outside La Bottega at 64 George Street since 2010.
HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

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Jail conditions concern lawyer

OTTAWA-CARLETON

Guards close to strike amid rampant overcrowding

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

As correctional officers at the Ottawa jail on Innes Road get closer to going on strike in the new year, an Ottawa defence lawyer is speaking out against the worsening conditions at the remand centre.

Over the past several months, the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre has seen a growing number of lockdowns, cancelled visits, interruptions to programs like Alcoholics Anonymous, and even a short-lived hunger strike among some inmates who sometimes are kept in overcrowded cells. The union representing correctional officers at the jail is pointing its finger at the province for failing to address overwhelming staffing problems.

A sign outside the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre on Innes Road informs visitors that inmate visits were cancelled on Thursday, Dec. 10. JOE LOFARO/METRO

As recently as two weeks ago, defence lawyer Jason Gilbert said one of his clients convicted of a convenience store robbery was placed in solitary confinement because there apparently was no other place for him.

"It was certainly (a) disappointment," said Gilbert. "He didn't phone me even once in those two weeks because of how limited he had said his access to the phone was based on the fact that he was in segregation."

Gilbert recently spoke to the Criminalization and Punishment Education Project.

The conditions at the jail also have implications in the courtroom, when judges consider an appropriate length of time someone spends in jail.

The Truth in Sentencing Act, introduced by the federal Conservatives in 2010, set a limit on the credit given to offenders at sentencing. Before the legislation passed, judges could give offenders a credit of two days, and in some cases three days, for every day spent in pretrial custody.

When the Conservatives' legislation was passed, it made a one-day credit for each day served in jail, and 1.5-day credit "if the circumstances justify it."

The majority of inmates in Ontario jails today are being held there on remand, either waiting for a bail hearing or waiting for their trials to start. Despite of the conditions being as bad as they are now, offenders will still get credit for a maximum of only 1.5 day's credit — and that's a problem, according to Gilbert.

"It doesn't matter how bad the conditions get, it doesn't really allow lawyers … to advocate on behalf of our clients that the time they're spending in the types of conditions that we've been seeing and hearing about recently should be taken into account at a higher rate at sentencing," he said.

He said it's a matter of time before the law is subject to a constitutional challenge if conditions at provincial jails persist.

> **Something clearly has to be done.**
> Jason Gilbert

On Dec. 4, the province announced it hired 91 correctional officers provincewide, six of whom were selected for the Ottawa jail.

Gilbert and OPSEU, the union representing COs in Ontario, are among others who say that's simply not enough to fix the problem.

Ontario's Minister of Community Safety and Corrections, Yasir Naqvi, said in a statement that the province is vowing to do more for the Ottawa jail beyond the six new hires.

"We are not stopping there; we are working with our labour partners to even hire more for OCDC. In addition we have added 13 mental health nurses to facilities across the province, including two at OCDC, and a comprehensive review of our segregation policy is underway," said Naqvi.

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Get naughty with the Sin Sisters at The Rainbow Bistro on Boxing Day. The burlesque program includes fire spinning, fake blood and whips and chains. CONTRIBUTED

Shows to ditch your Nana for

BACKSTAGE PASS

Stacked lineup will drag music fans away from family holidays

Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

There are going to be a lot of upset families this Christmas, as the musical lineup for the holidays is too stacked to keep you at home, visiting with Nana.

From all-night dance parties and live music to steamy, racy club nights, Ottawa will have you on Santa's naughty list before he has time to cross you off this year's good list. Here's a handy list of city events that will instantly cure your Christmas hangover, only to give you another one.

Dec. 24
Murray Kinsley & Wicked Grin Duo
The Atomic Rooster
It may be hard to convince Nana you're going out on Christmas Eve, but if you tell her that you're going to see a roots/rock band, she may want to come. Join Murray Kinsley & Wicked Grin Duo at the Atomic Rooster for a Christmas Eve acoustic show that promises to be as intimate as a quiet family Christmas Eve.

Dec. 25
I Assure You We're Open
Zaphod's
If Nana eats enough turkey, she'll be lights out before you head to Zaphod's for the I Assure You We're Open party. The bar opens at 10 p.m. and features a mix of regulars, old and new, looking for a festive night out with pals.

Need to get away from your crazy aunt? Put on that crappy sweater she bought you and head to Zaphod's. I assure you, it's open.

Dec. 26
Ryan Hemsworth
Ritual Nightclub
If any of you caught Ryan Hemsworth's dirty trap set at Bluesfest in 2014, you know what this cat can bring.

The Halifax-based DJ and producer has been dropping beats all over the world — from L.A. to Paris to New York and back, making people grind their nights away.

Hemsworth also dropped an epic set spanning every genre on the popular London-based Boiler Room in 2013. Oh yeah, he won a Juno Award in 2014 for Best Electronic Album.

Now, he brings his high-energy show to Ritual for one hell of a Boxing Day party. Don't miss this one; Nana will understand.

Dec. 26
Sin Sisters Annual Xmas Burlesque
The Rainbow Bistro
If you were on Santa's good list this year, then it'll be pretty easy to get naughty the following day at the Rainbow Bistro.

The grungy blues bar is peeling it off this year with the Sin Sisters Annual Xmas Burlesque show.

This isn't your regular burlesque show but one with a punk-rock flair. Expect ladies rocking out to Elvis, Slayer and other alternative tunes to titillate your senses. The show includes fire spinning, fake blood and whips and chains. Maybe tell Nana you're going to the new Star Wars movie.

Dec. 26.
Antique Skate Christmas Party with Sweet Cheeks and Hobo
Babylon
If you're a Boxing Day shopper, you'll need a tall glass of something cold when the day is done, and DJ Sweet Cheeks and Hobo have got you covered. The pair of Ottawa selectors will be dropping their signature indie dance and nu disco beats at Babylon's Antique Skate Christmas Party.

Nana will understand if you tell her you've been shopping all day for her and you just need a little break.

Dec. 28
Eephorea Presents Blackout
Babylon
Remember those old-school rave parties that were so black-lit that your teeth would glow when you would smile? Eephorea is bringing the black-light party back to Babylon on Dec. 28.

The entire place will be glowing under the black light while New City Gas' resident DJ Danny Torrence drops bombs from the DJ booth.

Revellers are encouraged to wear white to make the dance floor glow. Tell Nana you're going to a "neat" light show.

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NUNAVUT HIGH TEA
Michael H. Davies still thinks he got better shots. But one image the Nunavut photographer snapped of a friend throwing hot tea over his head in -40 C weather has captivated people around the world and gone viral in the process.

"I actually didn't have high hopes for this. I figured it might work, but I didn't think it would be as spectacular as it was," Davies told Torstar News Service in a phone interview on Wednesday. The image, which Davies said he got on only his second attempt, shows his friend, Markus Siivola, bending over backwards in front of a sunset on a snowy plain, a ring of frozen-liquid-that-was-once-tea encircling him.

By midday Wednesday, the photo had been shared more than 51,000 times on Facebook.

PHOTO: MICHAEL H. DAVIES VIA FACEBOOK
TEXT: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cannabis charges in limbo

LEGISLATION

Many caught up while waiting for legalization

While Rose Miranda waits for her April court date to face potential charges of possession for the purpose of trafficking, the 65-year-old retired education assistant can't take cannabis for her arthritis.

Mounties have also banned her from visiting or contacting anyone at Phoenix Pain Management Society, the medical marijuana dispensary where she was volunteering when she was arrested in Nanaimo, B.C.

"I love Baby Trudeau, but he says, 'We're going to fix this.' When? Meanwhile, I have clients who don't have their medication," Miranda said.

"I take care of people who are housebound, people in wheelchairs and people who are poor. They need their medication and right now they can't access it."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has vowed to legalize and regulate marijuana but no timeline is in sight. Meantime, cannabis-related crimes continue to tie up police and court resources, leaving some feeling like they're in legal limbo.

Miranda began using medical marijuana about two years ago, after she said prescription drugs turned her brain into "mush." She began volunteering at Phoenix, primarily to educate seniors about cannabis as a pain-relief option.

I feel very angry, but defiant, because I know I'm doing the right thing. My conscience is clear. I am not a criminal.
Rose Miranda

Nanaimo RCMP raided three dispensaries, including Phoenix, on Dec. 1. Selling pot over the counter — whether medical or recreational — remains illegal in Canada, and Mounties sent warning letters weeks before executing search warrants.

"They came in like a SWAT team, guns out, 'Hands up!,' screaming, yelling, terrifying everybody who was in there," said Miranda.

She said police body-searched everyone, including an elderly volunteer with a cane, before handcuffing them and taking them to jail. There, she said, she sat in a freezing cell wearing only a cotton shirt and pants for more than 10 hours.

Two days later, she said she wound up in hospital with chest pains.

Const. Gary O'Brien of the Nanaimo RCMP said he couldn't comment directly on any dispensaries that were raided.

"I believe most of the scenes were videotaped, so if there's any evidence our police officers were (heavy-handed), that will certainly come out," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

APPEAL

Ex-KGB may move to Canada

A former KGB agent has renewed hope he will be reunited with his wife and son in Canada after the Federal Court quashed a government decision denying him permanent resident status on humanitarian grounds.

Mikhail Lennikov, 55, joined the youth division of the Communist Party of the former Soviet Union in 1974 and worked for the KGB after he graduated from university in 1982 until 1988.

He came to Canada with his family on a student visa in 1997 for graduate studies at the University of British Columbia and applied for permanent residency with his wife and son two years later. His application was denied because due to his work for the now defunct Soviet security and intelligence agency.

In 2009, Lennikov took refuge in the First Lutheran Church in Vancouver after then-Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan refused to grant him relief from the inadmissibility finding.

His humanitarian and compassionate (H&C) application was rejected, and he left for Russia in 2015 after six years in sanctuary.

However, he appealed the minister's decision to the Federal Court of Canada. In a confidential ruling rendered in November that has just been unsealed, Justice Elizabeth Heneghan criticized the minister and his case management director for overstepping their responsibility when assessing Lennikov's applications by weighing inadmissible factors. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mikhail Lennikov. CONTRIBUTED

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

'Good memories:' N.W.T. village said 'no' to residential school

Chief Louis Norwegian in 1952. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

No, they said.

When officials came to collect children from Jean Marie River for residential school, residents of the remote village in the Northwest Territories said they'd keep their kids at home.

In what may have been unique among First Nations, they decided to build their own school. And now, as Canadians grapple with the legacy of residential schools, Jean Marie River is trying to commemorate the fact it doesn't have to. "Our community saw that it needed to do something different," said Chief Gladys Norwegian. "It was democracy at its finest."

Jean Marie River had about 70 people in 1950. That's about the same as now, but there were many more children back then.

That's what brought the government to town. Officials explained that kids would have to attend a residential school at Fort Simpson — a long journey by boat or dog team.

Norwegian's father Louis, who was chief, was torn.

"Dad really stressed on the importance of our beliefs and values," she recalled. "At the same time, (he) realized there's a dominant society out there, so he really believed we needed to know the ways of the white people for us to survive."

It was the mothers that made up his mind. "When he heard the mothers crying, echoing through the community ... he himself cried," said Norwegian. "To me, that was the driving force."

The chief began talking to officials about Jean Marie River getting its own school. But the options were residential schools or day schools attached to a hostel where kids could grab a few days worth of lessons while their parents were in the area to trade.

Not good enough, thought the chief. He had logs shipped and men pitched in and put up a schoolhouse. He made a deal with a anthropologists June Helm and Teresa Carterette, who were looking for a northern community to study.

Books and school materials were shipped from Alberta. Eventually, teachers came, too.

"It gave us a good, solid base as compared to people that went to residential schools that didn't have a nurturing mother, that didn't have a model of how to become a caring mother," Gladys Norwegian said.

"I think it helped me to become comfortable with who I am. I didn't really need to explain to anybody what being an aboriginal person means. I was comfortable in my skin."

"I just remember it with good memories," said Marilyn Hardisty, 61. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tracking Santa's sleigh gets technical

CHRISTMAS EVE

Hundreds of volunteers set to keep watch across globe

Peterson Air Force base is getting ready for its annual holiday mission — tracking Santa's storybook sleigh ride around the world.

The North American Aerospace Defence Command has been working for weeks to tackle the one-day mission.

Miles of wire, dozens of computers and 157 telephone lines will greet hundreds of volunteers Thursday, The Colorado Springs Gazette reported. Volunteers will be answering calls from an estimated 125,000 children around the globe looking for Santa's whereabouts.

"We keep adding stuff every year," said Staff Sgt. Kyle Kelly after he and a team of airmen taped down phone wires in the call centre Monday.

The call centre in a training building will be staffed for 23 hours and Christmas Eve. Volunteers will also share Santa's location on Facebook and Twitter. Last year, Santa got 1.6 million Facebook likes.

"We start in November," Kelly said. "We have to test every phone before we bring it in here."

NORAD's 60th year of tracking Santa involves more than the military. The program is underwritten by contractors who pay for the phones, the computers and the website.

First lady Michelle Obama is expected to volunteer, with calls forwarded to her on Christmas Eve.

Volunteers will field a growing number of calls from curious kids from outside the United States.

On the bilingual front, NORAD, a partnership between the U.S. and Canada, has a distinct advantage.

"The great thing about having Canadian forces here is they can speak in French," Canadian Maj. Jennifer Stadnyk said.

NORAD is responsible for defending the skies and monitoring the sea approaches for both nations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

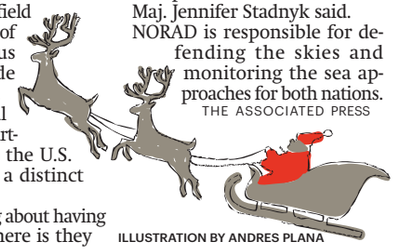

ILLUSTRATION BY ANDRES PLANA

Medical staff move landslide survivor Tian Zeming following surgery in a hospital in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province Wednesday. CHINATOPIX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUDSLIDE

Door gives trapped man space to survive

Squeezed into a narrow room under piles of debris for 67 hours, a young man was saved by a door that trapped his foot but gave him space to survive. Rescuers on Wednesday pulled him from the massive mudslide that hit part of a major manufacturing city in southern China.

In a feeble voice migrant worker Tian Zeming, 21, told rescuers his name and that another person was buried near him, according to authorities. But medical and rescue staff who went down into the rubble found the second person had not survived.

More than 70 people are still missing after the mountain of construction waste material and mud collapsed at midday Sunday and flowed into an industrial park in Shenzhen.

Zhang Hu, a city vice mayor, told a news conference that four bodies had been found. He said that even though the critical 72-hour period to find survivors had passed, they were continuing rescue efforts with a team of 5,000.

"As long as there is a sliver of hope, we will never give up," Zhang said.

> **"As long as there is a sliver of hope, we will never give up.**
> Shenzhen vice mayor Zhang Hu

State broadcaster CCTV reported that Tian underwent surgery for a broken hand and on his foot, which had been wedged against a door panel. It said he had been trying to get out of his room when the building collapsed, and the door panel created a space for him to survive.

Hospital boss Wang Guangming said Tian was in stable condition, but extremely weak, dehydrated and with several soft tissue injuries and multiple fractures. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW JERSEY

Panic over Elf on a Shelf

A New Jersey girl called 911 after she touched her Elf on the Shelf.

Police say seven-year-old Isabelle LaPeruta of Old Bridge was worried because, according to the popular children's book, the magic of Christmas goes away if the elf is touched.

AMAZON.COM

Her mother, Lynanne, says she awoke from a nap to find her daughter trying to shoo an officer out of the house. She says the girl panicked after the elf fell on the floor when she threw a ball. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RACIAL TENSIONS

Black Lives Matter protest hits Minneapolis

Arrests were made at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport on Wednesday as protesters blocked roads and caused significant traffic delays after they moved from a rally that briefly shut down the Mall of America.

A rally at the mall was organized by Black Lives Matter activists to bring attention to the police shooting of Jamal Clark, a black man in Minneapolis. The protesters want video released.

Gov. Mark Dayton said he urged protesters to stop blocking access to part of the airport. He said releasing video of officers' altercation with Clark could jeopardize investigations.

About 500 protesters initially gathered at the Mall of America early Wednesday afternoon. The mall sought a court order blocking the planned protest. A judge on Tuesday barred three organizers from attending the demonstration, but didn't have the power to block unidentified protesters associated with Black Lives Matter from showing up.

Kandace Montgomery, one of three organizers, said the group wasn't deterred by the ban. Montgomery said the retail mecca was the perfect venue for their demonstration to pressure authorities involved in the investigation of Clark's death to release video footage.

"When you disrupt their flow of capital ... they actually start paying attention," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police arrest one of the 500 protesters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRISTMAS IN FRANCE FEAR MIXED WITH CHEER
French police and a soldier patrol near a Santa Claus model in Nice, southeastern France, Wednesday. France's interior minister says the government will tighten security around Christmas, amid continued concerns about potential extremist violence after deadly attacks last month.
LIONEL CIRONNEAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Junta claims mass approval

GOVERNMENT

Thailand's military rulers say poll shows 99% rating

It's the kind of poll result you'd see in a North Korean election or Saddam Hussein's Iraq: Thailand's military-ruled government says 99 per cent of the country's people are happy with its performance since it took power in a coup last year.

The junta has relentlessly pursued critics, jailing them for attempting to stage protests, lighting candles or even hitting the "like" button on Facebook, yet says the poll released Tuesday shows an astonishing majority of Thais are satisfied with its performance.

The survey conducted by the government-run National Statistical Organization found that 98.9 per cent of respondents were satisfied and confident in the government's performance, said government spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd. He did not disclose the margin of error of the survey, but said 2,700 people nationwide were polled from Nov. 27 to Dec. 4.

However, the number of respondents and dates they were polled varied depending on the government source.

Deputy government spokesman Werachon Sukondhapatipak said over 7,000 people were polled earlier in December. The statistics office that conducted the poll said 3,900 people were surveyed from Nov. 2 to 10 — and that 98.6 per cent of them expressed satisfaction with the government.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUSIC COUP

PM Prayuth Chan-ocha
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

PM seeks harmony with new song for country
Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the temperamental but tuneful head of Thailand's military junta, has written a song as a present to his fellow citizens. He said his new song, Because You Are Thailand, is an appeal to all Thais to join with him in overcoming the crisis that besets Thailand, an apparent reference to divisions that caused sometimes-violent political conflicts over the past decade.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mining may go Uber way

INDUSTRY

Abitibi CEO wants to pull stodgy sector into new age

At 31, Ian Ball became one of the youngest mining company presidents on Bay Street at McEwen Mining, which operates in four countries. His boss was none other than legendary gold mining magnate Rob McEwen.

Ian Ball. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A year after being promoted to the top spot, Ball called up the CEO of Abitibi Royalties (Glenn Mullan) "and told him I wanted to replace him," jokes Ball. Today, at 34, Ball has that CEO job and is implementing the innovative ideas that got him there.

Last summer, under Ball's leadership, Abitibi launched "The Royalty Search", an online platform where struggling exploration companies and prospectors can submit a property for consideration to have their annual staking costs or property taxes paid for in exchange for a royalty.

Knowing that the mining industry works slowly as it moves from discovery to excavation, Ball insists the sector needs to refine its business model.

"Look at Uber and Airbnb," he says. "They both support market valuations equal or larger than the world's largest gold miners, but don't own anything. … At their heart, they are royalty companies getting a percentage of a sale. How do you bring that to mining?"

Ball figures his company's approach with the royalty search helps junior miners survive the ongoing bear market, and gives them a leg up on much bigger, established competitors in the same game.

"I have very clear goals for myself," says the Bowmanville, Ont., native. "One was to run a gold company, but when I left McEwen Mining I set out to build the best gold company in the world," he says quite seriously.

"That might seem like a boastful statement, but when measured by share price and performance, I don't think it is inconceivable considering the foundation we have at Abitibi Royalties. And I wanted to do something on my own, starting small in order to show people that nothing was given," says Ball.

Veteran mining analyst John Ing remembers when a keen and fresh-faced Ball began working with McEwen at Goldcorp in his early 20s.

"Robbie likes to hire young people who are unconstrained in their thinking about the mining business, and Ian was certainly one of them," recalls Ing of Maison Placements Canada Inc.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ONLINE SECURITY HELLO KITTY FIRM SAYS LEAK PLUGGED Tourists ride on a sightseeing bus painted with a Hello Kitty character in Tokyo. Sanrio Co., the Japanese company that owns the Hello Kitty brand, said it has fixed a security leak on the SanrioTown.com fan site that compromised the personal information of 3.3 million users, including 186,261 minors. The leak was discovered on Saturday by a security researcher. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Apps cater to tardy shoppers

Procrastinators, rejoice. This year there are more apps and services than ever before to help last-minute shoppers.

Apps like Curbside deliver orders directly to the trunk of your car, more retailers are offering incentives to buy online and pick up in store, and Amazon Prime Now and other same-day delivery services have vastly expanded this year.

Retailers are adding incentives so more people choose "buy online, pick up in store" options. Macy's offered a $10 e-gift card on a purchase of $50 or more when an online order is picked up in store via coupon aggregator RetailMeNot. The option lets retailers save on expedited shipping costs and cuts down time for last-minute shoppers.

RetailMeNot's mobile app lets shoppers take advantage of last-minute deals in store too. The app uses a combination of GPS and Wi-Fi signals to pull deals from stores you are in or nearby when you opt in.

Those seeking deals on same-day delivery will find them, too. Shopify, which provides merchants with online checkout services, said its retailers were partnering with Uber to provide free same-day delivery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS

Your essential daily news

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Sweetscience
For the perfect Christmas dinner, says Oxford University gastrophysicist Charles Michel, add a dollop of jam to your gravy.

Are you as smart as Metro's favourite feline philosopher?

Our resident snuggly scholar has collected snippets of the best holiday wisdom for you to ponder as you celebrate the season. See how many quips you can match to their authors. And have a meowy Christmas, happy holidays and a healthy and safe new year.

IF ALL THE YEAR WERE PLAYING HOLIDAYS, TO SPORT WOULD BE AS TEDIOUS AS WORK.
1
I FIND CHRISTMAS VERY DIFFICULT.
2
THERE IS NO PLACE MORE DELIGHTFUL THAN ONE'S OWN FIRESIDE.
6
A PERPETUAL HOLIDAY IS A GOOD DEFINITION OF HELL.
4
LET'S BE NAUGHTY AND SAVE SANTA THE TRIP.
3
REMEMBER THIS DECEMBER, THAT LOVE WEIGHS MORE THAN GOLD.
5
WIKIQUOTE
SHAKESPEARE
MORRISSEY
JOSEPHINE DODGE DASKAM BACON
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5. Josephine Dodge Daskam Bacon
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FREE TO SHARE

URBAN ETIQUETTE **ELLEN VANSTONE**

There you have it, folks: the biggest gift of all. The golden rule that JC expounded during his all-too-brief career as a motivational speaker and Messiah: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

You may or may not believe in Jesus Christ, but it's hard to argue the man didn't pull off one major miracle: He used a rudimentary form of social media that involved a scattered entourage jotting down tweets on vellum, but more than 2,000 years after his death, his birthday is still an event of global significance.

Admittedly, the manner in which his followers now celebrate the day might give him pause. Overspending on toys and gadgets. Committing the sin of gluttony for days on end. Pretending a fat guy from the North Pole uses levitating caribou to carry out billions of B&E's in one night via outdated home-heating systems. It's a strange way to honour the life of a poverty-stricken prophet who preached love and humility.

But far be it from me to judge.

Because God knows I'd hate to be judged.

And there you have it, folks: The biggest gift of all. The golden rule that JC expounded during his all-too-brief career as a public motivational speaker and Messiah: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Which is pretty much what I've been saying for almost a year in this etiquette column. Not that I'm comparing myself to Jesus Christ. Obviously, that is not for me to say.

What I am saying is that the spirit of Christmas is based on the same principle that is at the core of good manners, i.e., putting the comfort and concerns of others ahead of your own.

The spirit of Christmas is based on the same principle that is at the core of good manners.

This kind of manners has nothing to do with etiquette per se — it's not about which fork to use with the escargots or how to address a peer should you be invited to brunch with the House of Lords. Those kinds of rules are too often used by the privileged (aka lucky) to make "lesser" folk feel bad and excluded, which is the opposite of good manners

What I'm talking about is the kind of impeccably good manners that are based in love — love for thy neighbours, love for thine own sense of being a decent, moral person.

What could be simpler, right? Be nice to everybody while everybody is also nice to you. If we all embraced it for just one single day, we'd instantly have another miracle: world peace. Good lord, it's so easy a child could understand it!

And yet… It's so hard! (And believe me, it's twice as hard for someone who writes a national etiquette column. The pressure in my personal life not to be a total jerk is considerable.)

It's also hard to buy into the baby-Jesus-peace-and-love message of Christmas when we're drowning in a sea of insidiously sentimental, tinsel-laden, bank-breaking exhortations to buy buy buy. Not to mention the stress of pretending to get along with everyone in your crazy family over turkey. Not to also mention the stress of desperately missing your crazy family should you find yourself separated from them this year.

So allow me to suggest a gift-giving idea that anyone can afford, and is firmly on message with the season.

Why not give the gift of good manners, all year long?

Help wrangle a stroller onto the streetcar even when you're frantically late. Be more patient with frazzled store clerks, harried servers and amateur pedestrians who clog up sidewalks or stop dead at the top of escalators. Talk to the oldest, loneliest person in the room at a party full of otherwise sexy, powerful dynamos. Listen — really listen — to the most annoying relative in your family. Drop your indifference to a neighbour/partner/co-worker you take utterly for granted, and let what they want and feel actually register in some non-judgmental corner of your brain (it may take some looking, but you'll find it).

I guarantee these small but genuinely heroic efforts will bring you a little closer to the peaceful, loving world we all crave, whether you're religious or not.

Good luck.

And Merry Christmas from everyone at Metro!

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

metro WEEKEND
Your essential daily news
MOVIES GOSSIP TELEVISION DIGITAL

Poulter 'pushed to the brink'

INTERVIEW

The Revenant actor finds chaos of shoot rewarding

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

British actor Will Poulter portrays legendary mountain man Jim Bridger in the epic frontier adventure The Revenant. CONTRIBUTED

Stories about The Revenant's rough and tumble shoot have already passed into legend. Harsh filming conditions — it was minus 40 degrees with windchill factor for much of the Alberta shoot — turned the outdoor revenge drama into what one crew member called "a living hell."

One of the film's stars says he was "confused and stressed" during the shoot, but wouldn't have had it any other way.

"It is something that I am only able to analyze and realize in hindsight," says English actor Will Poulter. "I spent the entire experience peppered with these moments of total confusion and emotional stress; in a turmoil. Now I realize that is what I needed to experience. I wouldn't have ever wanted to really gain control because then I wouldn't have been experiencing anything realistic or wouldn't have captured anything we needed. I'm glad for those moments."

The 22-year-old, hot off the success of The Maze Runner and We're the Millers, appears alongside Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hardy in the gritty vengeance drama about fur trapper Hugh Glass, a frontiersman who became a legend when he trekked across harsh country after being left for dead following a brutal bear attack. Poulter plays Jim Bridger, an inexperienced fur trapper caught in an impossible situation — torn between loyalty to Glass, his responsibility to his employers and his moral obligations.

> **It's an exploration of how much we can take as humans and what motivates us to endure these kinds of conditions.**
> Will Poulter on his latest film The Revenant

"On many occasions (director) Alejandro (Iñárritu) let me be because I was naturally confused and stressed by being pulled in many directions and not knowing what to do. He often thought the most appropriate thing to do was to allow me to be that. I would turn to him and say, 'I don't know what to do here,' and he would say, 'Why are we even having this conversation?' The character doesn't know what's going on, so why should I?"

The Revenant is the cinema of misery: a primal story that puts its characters through their paces.

"I think this movie is about the human spirit and I think what Alejandro strove to achieve was a film that explored what humans are able to endure and what is worth enduring in this kind of experience. Is it family? Is it money? Is it simply the will to live another day in an environment you love and feel safe in? It's an exploration of how much we can take as humans and what motivates us to endure these kinds of conditions."

Poulter says The Revenant is "an emotionally affecting experience," and adds, "there was no creating that without experiencing a lot of the hardships for real." The gruelling outdoor shoot took place on 12 different locations in three different countries including Canada, United States and Argentina from October 2014 to August 2015. Thinking about the shoot Poulter remembers the hard times with pride.

"The moments that stick out most for me are those moments where I felt I was pushed to the brink emotionally and physically but achieving the shot or getting the take. Ending the day was just unbelievable. There are a few of those days that stick out in my mind and that's why it was so rewarding. It's one thing to finish a hard day's (work) and pat one another on the back. It's another thing to finish a day you didn't actually think you could get through and then pat each other on the back."

Mariah Carey in A Christmas Melody. CONTRIBUTED

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Telefilm so lame you can't even hate-watch

THE SHOW: A Christmas Melody (W/Hallmark)
THE MOMENT: The feel-bad point

Melissa (Mariah Carey), the self-proclaimed "go-to mom for everyone in Silver Falls, Ohio," stands in the wings during an elementary school holiday pageant. She's wearing a snow-white cardigan and pearls. Her high ponytail and makeup are red-carpet-ready. Consumed with jealousy, she stares at someone on stage: the nine-year-old daughter of Kristen (Lacey Chabert).

Kristen was Melissa's arch-rival in high school, and she's recently moved back to town. Before the pageant, Kristen tut-tutted to Melissa, "Someone would have to be heartless to want to upstage a nine-year-old." As Carey tries valiantly to knit her brow we realize, someone is.

Can anyone feel good watching alleged-feel-good holiday telefilms like this one? If so, how?

> **Mariah Carey tries valiantly to knit her brow**

Budget constraints force their actors to be driving through sunny October leaves one minute and pulling up in "snowy" December Ohio the next. Their dialogue is full of cheesy clunkers like, "You're this amazing wedding dress designer for Butler's department store!" and "You're never too old to believe in Christmas wishes." People must be hate-watching, right? Right???

I tried to liven things up by inventing a drinking game: If Carey ever changed position in her scenes, I would drink. But I stayed thirsty, because in every one, she stood stock-still and recited her dialog without even moving her head.

And when they referred to Kristen and Melissa's high school graduation in 1998 — even though Chabert was born in 1982 and Carey in 1970 — well, it just became a feel-sad movie, and I went to bed.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

HOLLYWOOD SUITE SPONSORED CONTENT

7 WAYS JUDD APATOW FIXED FUNNY

Judd Apatow is a millennial Renaissance man. As the director of movies like The 40-Year-Old Virgin and Knocked Up and the producer of such flicks as Superbad, Pineapple Express (above) and Anchorman, Apatow has used his voice to champion a new kind of storytelling in comedy. Here's how:

1. He launched the raunchy comedy. Hollywood execs in the 1990s kept most comedies broad — PG-13 fare aimed at teenage boys. The 40-Year-Old Virgin (2005) was an R-rated film that explored awkward middle age. And we were all the richer for it.

2. He built a bridge between the '90s and today. Apatow got his start working with Garry Shandling, Jim Carrey, Adam Sandler and Ben Stiller — stars that defined 1990s comedy.

3. He rejected the star system. In his own productions, Apatow is known for taking chances with unknown or under-appreciated talents, such as Seth Rogen, Melissa McCarthy and Steve Carell. After working with Carell on Anchorman (2004), he encouraged the Daily Show alumnus to write the story for The 40-Year-Old Virgin.

4. He plays well with others. Apatow encourages collaborative filmmaking, such as on-set improv, which in turn leads to some of the funniest outtakes in the biz.

5. He's a friend to the underdog. Apatow loves subcultures. From the sleepy stoners being chased by drug lords in Pineapple Express to the awkward high-school seniors facing separation anxiety in Superbad, he shows that even losers get lucky sometimes.

6. That's because the journey is half of the fun. In the Apatow-verse, side chatter and witty wordplay get as much airtime as action scenes and gags. It makes relationships between characters feel more real.

7. He knows women are funny. Apatow has provided a platform for strong female performers such as Catherine Keener in The 40-Year-Old Virgin and Leslie Mann in Funny People. He's also nurtured Lena Dunham (Girls), Amy Schumer (Trainwreck) and Kristen Wiig, who co-wrote one of his biggest hits, Bridesmaids.

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Laughing on Wall Street

INTERVIEW

Anchorman director tackles the financial crisis

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Christian Bale stars in The Big Short, directed by Adam McKay. Even McKay's big, broad absurdist comedies have germs of subversive ideas embedded in them, but here the director confronts political ideas head-on in a hard-to-pin-down format. CONTRIBUTED

Adam McKay is best known for directing broad comedies with Will Ferrell like Anchorman and Step Brothers. But his new film, The Big Short, is a different beast.

It's the story of how four investment-bankers — played by Christian Bale, Steve Carell, Finn Wittrock and John Magaro — saw the devastating financial meltdown of 2007–10 coming when no one else did. It's a lighthearted look at a dire situation. Call it a dramedy.

"When I read this book it did everything I wanted to see in a movie," he says. "It was funny, it was tragic, and the characters were amazing. I think it was a case of running into one of the great books of the last 20 years that shows what is really going on in our modern world."

McKay knows how to milk a laugh out of a scene but he also knows that the level of understanding the viewer needs to get why the housing bubble burst is above the level of most MBAs.

"It's like 2 + 2 = fish," says one banker, expressing disbelief at the financial manipulations used by the big banks. In the film he takes pains to explain how Wall Street likes to use confusing terms to make you think only they can understand what they do.

"We wanted to be the first Wall Street movie that took you behind the curtain, that really said, All these confusing terms you hear, all the ways the banks make you feel stupid or bored ... it's actually not that hard. If the guy who did Step Brothers can understand it you can too.

"We were trying to show that this thing that half of Wall Street doesn't understand, these derivatives, mortgage backed securities, they're actually pretty easy.

"They bundled a bunch of mortgages, they sold them, made a ton of money. Then they ran out of good mortgages so they put crappy mortgages in and coerced the ratings agencies to give them AAA. That's it. That's the whole story."

McKay has an a-list cast but he didn't want to make the movie all about the stars.

"It would have been very easy to just do this character story and just show these guys being affected by it but I wanted this thing to bridge a gap. I think there is too much stuff in our society where people just think, 'Ahhh banking! It's boring. Politics! Who cares?' The truth is, this stuff is exciting, It's the language of power. Once you get hooked on it, it gets addictive."

The Big Short is a look at our recent past, but McKay warns this is not a historical drama or cautionary tale, rather it's very much a going concern.

"All the effects of this collapse are still completely in play. All the same questions are still in play and they fixed a few things but they didn't fix the main, weight bearing beam beams that caused this problem.

"So this is an active story right this second. That is one of the main reasons we made this movie, we want people to understand that. This isn't over."

WESTERN

The Hateful Eight

Director: Quentin Tarantino
Starring: Samuel L. Jackson, Kurt Russell

Set after the Civil War, a stagecoach hurtles through the wintry Wyoming landscape. The passengers, bounty hunter John Ruth and his fugitive Daisy Domergue, race towards the town of Red Rock.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 85% Audience: 98%

DRAMA

Concussion

Director: Peter Landesman
Starring: Will Smith, Gugu Mbatha-Raw

This dramatic thriller is based on the incredible true David vs. Goliath story of Dr. Bennet Omalu, the brilliant forensic neuropathologist who made the first discovery of CTE, and a sports-related brain trauma in a pro player who fought for the truth to be known.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 58% Audience: 95%

COMEDY

Daddy's Home

Director: Sean Anders
Starring: Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg

A mild-mannered radio executive strives to become the best stepdad to his wife's two children, but complications ensue when their freewheeling and freeloading real father arrives, forcing him to compete for the affection of the kids.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 32% Audience: 96%

DRAMA

Joy

Director: David O. Russell
Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Robert DeNiro

This is the wild story of a family across four generations centered on the girl who becomes the woman who founds a business dynasty and becomes a matriarch in her own right.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 63% Audience: 96%

5 POP CULTURE MOMENTS THAT MADE HEADLINES IN 2015

The worlds of celebrity and pop culture were filled with attention-grabbing moments over the course of 2015, and sometimes enough similar ones — like when doughnut debacles and bad pics take on a life of their own on the Internet — to constitute a troubling trend. Here's what got our attention this year.

NED EHRBAR METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

1 Justin Bieber makes a comeback

In 2014, Justin Bieber was Canada's most hated export. But this year, a pop-culture miracle occurred and he is back on top thanks to excessively apologizing and releasing some actually very good new music. Joining forces with Skrillex and Diplo, Bieber's song What Do You Mean? debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 — that, in addition to two other songs dominating the charts.

2 Taylor Swift's overstuffed squad

Taylor Swift hit the road this year for her 1989 tour and used it as a chance to prove to the world that she knows a lot — and we mean a lot — of famous people (seen here with Selena Gomez), with cameos onstage by the U.S. women's soccer team, Miranda Lambert and Justin Timberlake to name a few. But she wasn't impossible to say no to. Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellan were able to resist her charms. And honestly, Jennifer Lawrence and Amy Schumer dancing on Billy Joel's piano felt much more organic.

3 Amy Schumer's 'last f-able day'

Leave it to comedy's golden girl to bring together the mega-wattage of Tina Fey and Patricia Arquette to toast Julia Louis-Dreyfus' "last f—able day" in the Season 3 premiere of her Comedy Central show. Not only hilarious by nature, it threw astute shade at Hollywood's wild standards for women "of a certain age." Schumer returned the favour later this year, appearing in Fey and Amy Poehler's Bad Blood parody on Saturday Night Live. Double props.

4 The Ballad of Poot Lovato

As much as Demi Lovato might hate it, the fictitious mutant sister that her family has kept locked in the basement was having a major moment in 2015 — a moment that wouldn't end for the beleaguered singer, with Twitter Q&As and Instagram comment sections continually hijacked by snarky fans concerned about Poot's well-being. You can't fight the Internet, Demi.

5 Ariana Grande's doughnut debacle

One way to help make your bubbly young pop-star self seem more relatable? Showing you like to get stoned and skulk around donut shops, maybe even overstepping your bounds and taste-testing a pastry on the counter, as Ariana Grande did in a great moment caught on camera. Not so helpful? Declaring that you "hate America" after being chastised for your intoxicated behaviour.

OH WHAT FUN IT IS TO BE DONE.

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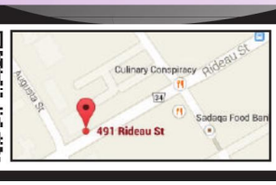

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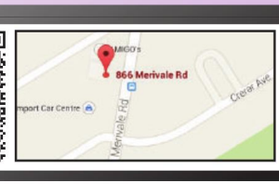

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metro HOME
Your essential daily news

LG's latest smart vacuum doubles as cleaning device and guard dog

NYE bar essentials

I'm sure this far into the holiday season you've seen your share of unorganized bar setups. Don't let your New Year's party be under scrutiny; hire a shirtless bartender and outfit your party with the best bar accessories.

Karl Lohnes
For Metro Canada

1 GLUCKSTEINHOME Trolley Styled Bar Cart
Keep the kitchen island clear and all your bar candy organized. $300, TheBay.com

2 Godinger Hammered Stainless Bar Set
All the materials you will need to show off your mixology skills. $80, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

3 Tom Dixon ARC Corkscrew Pull
Add some designer style to your wine bar. $88, HopsonGrace.com

4 Ralph Lauren 2-Piece Greenwich Double Old-Fashioned Glass Set
A good drink means serving it in a damn-good glass. $95, TheBay.com

5 Carter Muddler
Mash and muddle those garnishes for a truly handmade drink. $18, CrateAndBarrel.com

6 Crabbie's Ginger Beer
Reportedly, a big mainstay for this season's crafty bartenders. $3.60, CrabbiesGingerBeer.com

7 Tartan Crock-Pot Classic Slow Cooker
A great way to keep those hot toddies and ciders warm throughout the party. $28, Walmart.ca

8 Top Shelf Living Set of 9 Whiskey Stones
Let's not water down the issue — no need for ice cubes with these rocks around. $23, Walmart.ca

REAL ESTATE

What they're asking: Homes across Canada for $500K-$600K

What kind of a resale property can you get for $500,000 to $600,000? In this price range, you can certainly still buy a quality home in these cities. Metro looks at a variety of housing types across the country, from pre-construction and resale condos to single-family houses.

OUR CITY

ASKING PRICES WERE ACCURATE AT TIME OF PUBLISHING.

$597,451

Ottawa

Here's a great two-bedroom condo at 428 Sparks St., in the new Cathedral Hill condo tower in Centre Town. The suite has 974 square feet of living space with views of the Ottawa river from a private balcony. The condo boasts engineered hardwood finishes, quartz countertops and porcelain tile. Amenities include a concierge, party room, gym, sauna, dog-washing station and a workshop. Listing agent Irina Popova is a sales representative with Sutton Group Premier Realty, 613-567-1400.

$509,900

Winnipeg

Here's a condo suite at the exclusive Edgewater building. This corner sixth-floor unit offers city and river views. The kitchen with breakfast bar features espresso-stained maple cabinets, granite counters, tiled backsplash, tiled floors, gas cooktop, built-in oven and microwave, dishwasher and fridge. The master bedroom offers a walk-in closet and four-piece en suite with soaker tub. One parking stall and one storage locker are also offered. Listing agent Natasha Kouk is a sales representative with Royal LePage Dynamic Real Estate, 204-989-5000.

$536,000

Calgary

For sale is this detached three-bedroom home that is loaded with upgraded features. The main floor offers a spacious great room with a gas fireplace, a good-size kitchen that features an island and walk-through pantry. The upper level features a four-piece bathroom, laundry, a spacious great room and three bedrooms. It's close to green spaces, shopping and transit. Listing agents Tim Lind and Richard Fleming are sales representatives for Re/Max Real Estate Mountainview, 403-247-5171.

metro SPORTS

'I think I was already sacked': Man United manager Louis van Gaal on reports that Jose Mourinho is in line for his job

Have fun in Helsinki

WORLD JUNIORS

Stars of the past dish advice to Canada's U-20s

Veterans of the world junior hockey championship say the keys to success are found off the ice: Have fun, soak in the experience and try to avoid distractions online.

"The biggest thing is have fun, enjoy it," said Brad Boyes, who won bronze and silver with Canada in 2001 and 2002 respectively.

"It really does go fast. It's been a long time since I've been there. The biggest thing is enjoy it, compete, win. You might not have another chance to do it.

"You gotta have fun, that's the biggest thing. Take it for what it is but give it everything. You don't get a second chance sometimes."

Mike Babcock, who guided Canada to gold in 1997, says that having fun is just as important for the coaches, if not more so, because it's up to them to set the tone for the players, both at training camp and at the tournament itself.

"No. 1 is you've got to enjoy yourself," said Babcock, who spoke with head coach Dave Lowry and his staff at Canada's selection camp in Toronto. "You got to get the guys very prepared but you've got to enjoy it. It's a grind and it's hard to win but if you enjoy the process you have a better chance.

"The other thing is that preparation's got to be equal to the opportunity, get really prepared and you've got a way better chance of getting lucky and guys playing well."

This year's championship will be played from Dec. 26 to Jan. 6 in Helsinki.

While the event has become a holiday tradition across Canada, tournament veterans say the weight of the nation's expectations don't hit the players until they've begun to play and messages from home start to pile up.

> **No. 1 is you've got to enjoy yourself.**
> Maple Leafs coach and 1997 world junior champion bench boss Mike Babcock.

Edmonton Oilers rookie sensation Connor McDavid, who won gold with Canada last year, suggested that the players on this year's team should unplug from social media because even well-intentioned messages can build pressure.

It's a sentiment that has been echoed by Hockey Canada brass and some other veterans of the team.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jake Virtanen tucks in one of his two goals in Wednesday's world junior warm-up game against Sweden in Helsinki.
HEIKKI SAUKKOMAA/LEHTIKUVA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada shaky in final WJC tune-up

Mitch Marner scored with less than four minutes to go to cap the scoring in a wild third period, and Canada edged Sweden 7-6 Wednesday in its last exhibition match before the world junior hockey championship.

Canada led 5-1 heading into the third, before Sweden lit up Canada goaltender Mason McDonald with five goals over the final 20 minutes.

"We put ourselves in a very good position after two periods, and we just have to continue to play and have the ability to close out leads," Canada coach Dave Lowry said.

WEDNESDAY In Helsinki

CANADA	SWEDEN
7	6

Marcus Pettersson's second goal of the period at 15:26 tied the game at 6-6 before Marner's goal salvaged the win for Canada.

McDonald, a Halifax native, recovered to make some big saves over the final minutes with Sweden pressing for the tying goal. He ended up stopping 26 of 32 shots.

"He gave us a chance," Lowry said of his goaltender. "He made saves, and he made timely saves."

Vancouver Canucks forward Jake Virtanen had two goals for the Canadians, with Dylan Strome, Mitchell Stephens, Haydn Fleury and Brendan Perlini also scoring.

Oskar Lindblom, Jacob Larsson, Axel Holmstrom and Adrian Kempe had Sweden's other goals. Linus Soderstrom gave up five goals on 20 shots before being replaced by Erik Kallgren, who stopped five of seven shots in relief.

Canada opens its defence of the world junior title Saturday against the rival United States.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Redblacks sign Lavoie to 3-year deal

The Ottawa Redblacks have re-signed fullback Patrick Lavoie to a three-year contract.

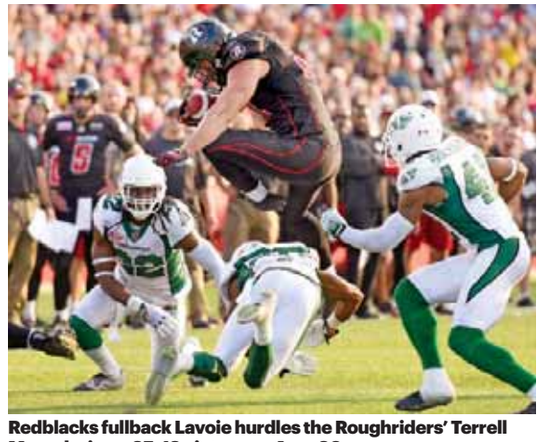
The native of Sainte-Flavie, Que., caught 16 passes for 140 yards and two touchdowns during the 2015 regular season.

He also opened the scoring of this year's Grey Cup final, catching a three-yard pass from Henry Burris and shouldering his way into the end zone.

The 28-year-old, who would have been eligible for free agency in February, was selected by Ottawa in the 2013 CFL expansion draft from the Montreal Alouettes.

> **This is where I want to play.**
> Patrick Lavoie

In four seasons with Montreal and Ottawa, Lavoie has 74 receptions for 721 yards and six touchdowns. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Redblacks fullback Lavoie hurdles the Roughriders' Terrell Maze during a 35-13 victory on Aug. 30. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Beckham's ban stands for Sunday

Odell Beckham Jr. is going to have to serve his one-game suspension.

Hearing officer James Thrash on Wednesday upheld the suspension for multiple violations of safety-related playing rules after hearing an appeal by the New York Giants receiver earlier in the day.

Beckham will miss the game Sunday night at Minnesota. The second-year Pro Bowler is barred from team meetings; attending or watching practices; attending Sunday's game; or having contact with any club personnel except to arrange off-site medical treatment or rehabilitation. He will be reinstated next Monday.

The NFL suspended Beckham on Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Odell Beckham Jr.
GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE Sweet Potato and Split Pea Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This simple, hearty soup is packed with as much nutrition as it is with comfort factor.

Ready in
Prep time: 1 hour 15 minutes
Serves 6

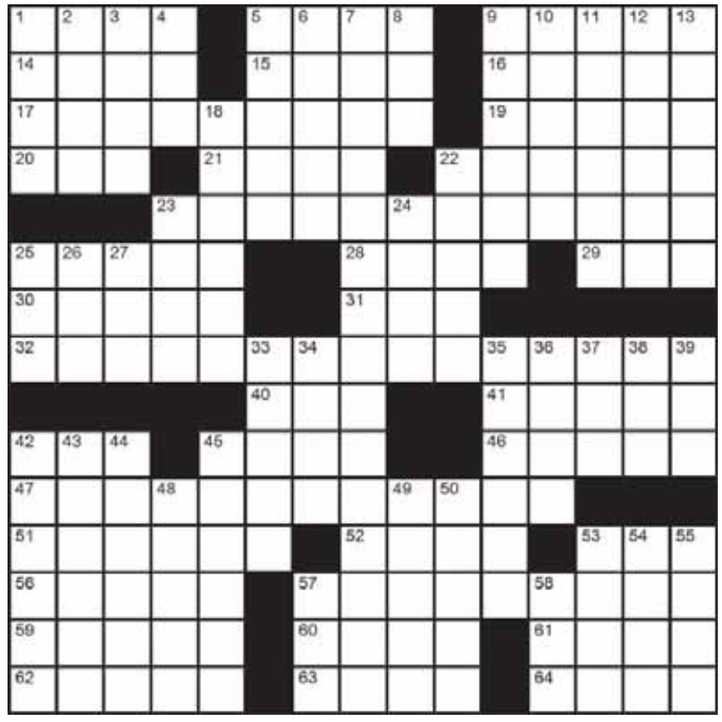
Ingredients
- 8 1/2 cups water
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 cup dried yellow split peas
- 1 Tbsp freshly grated ginger
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 Tbsp toasted pumpkin seeds

Directions
1. Place a large sauce pan over medium heat and fill with 1/2 cup water and onion, allow to cook until onions are translucent. Add ginger and simmer for 2 minutes. Add remaining 8 cups of water, sweet potato and peas to pot and bring to a boil.
2. After a few minutes, reduce the temperature and cover soup. Allow to simmer for 1 hour, or until the sweet potatoes and tender.
3. In that same bowl, toss your shrimp with the other half of the marinade. When the broccoli has been in the oven for 10 minutes, take out the sheets, turn the broccoli over and add the shrimp evenly across the two sheets. Put it all back in the oven for another 10 minutes.
4. Allow to soup to simmer last 10 minutes uncovered. Working in batches, put soup in a food processor and purée. Garnish with pumpkin seeds or sunflower seeds.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "__ Is Christmas": Festive tune by #59-Across
5. Ancient's 1601
9. Monastery boss
14. Comical "Ouches!"
15. Egg: French
16. Bellows
17. The __, "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989) family
19. 'Madame' of chemistry
20. Canuck prov.
21. Carried
22. Brightly-plumed bird
23. "Glory to the newborn King!" exclaimers: 2 wds.
25. Eternal City's ancient inhabitant
28. Lively
29. Socialite's 'born'
30. Moon shape, e.g.
31. Indonesia's __ Islands
32. When many might still be shopping for Christmas gifts: 4 wds.
40. "__ little teapot..."
41. Raised flatlands
42. Sit-ups targets
45. Util. bill
46. Friends, slangly
47. NORAD service monitoring the progress of Rudolph and the gang on Christmas eve: 2 wds.
51. Baking... All-purpose and multigrain
52. Canadian rocker Mr. Kroeger
53. Gunk
56. Decorate
57. "We Three Kings of Orient Are"... "Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying / Sealed in the __-__ tomb."
59. Canadian singer/songwriter Ms. McNeil
60. Canadian actor Mr. Cronyn
61. Tilled
62. Be popular on Twitter
63. Mail org. in The States
64. Hubbubs

DOWN
1. "Is that for here or __ __?" (Fast food query)
2. Highway honker
3. "Don't know __ __ matters, but..."
4. Leaky balloon sound effect
5. Communicating cow
6. __ Falls (High waterfall on Vancouver Island)
7. "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch"... "You're as __ __ __ / You're as charming as an eel..."
8. Perhaps-es
9. Esoteric
10. Old 'town' in France
11. Like the wilderness
12. Baltimore baseball player
13. Dangerous flying bug
18. Wherefrom
22. Bit of drumming in "The Little Drummer Boy": 2 wds.
23. Jumble
24. Pub game prop
25. TV brand
26. Christmas dinner fragment
27. Converged
33. Lively rhythms
34. Canadian's continental neighbour, briefly
35. Hold back
36. Not ever, poetically
37. Employ
38. Dance style
39. 'Count' suffix
42. Of equal quickness: 2 wds.
43. Town in southern Manitoba named after one of Norse deity Odin's sons
44. Alarm clock button
45. Made money
48. Burial shroud city in Italy
49. Eat loudly
50. Surnamesakes of Orson Welles' most famous role
53. Fine
54. Butter substitute
55. Gambler's chances
57. Moo __ pork (Takeout dish)
58. "__-ching!"

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You need to make a bold decision and choose between one approach or another. The only danger is that your emotions will guide you instead of reason. Think before you act.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
It's not a good time for taking risks, so don't be tempted to gamble, even if the odds are in your favour. Travel plans, too, are likely to be disrupted, so unless you must be on the move it might be wise to stay at home.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You may go over the top if you think you are being cheated out of what you deserve. Before you start firing off accusations make sure you've got the evidence to back them up.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
An emotional looking full moon in your sign over the next 48 hours means you can't trust your feelings. Refuse to get upset no matter the provocation. How you react matters.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Something will disrupt your schedule. But why should that worry you? Relax. Slow down. Take it easy for a while. Save your energy for a time when you can make things happen.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The current cosmic set-up is more than a little misleading, so don't jump to conclusions and don't launch into a tirade against someone you think does not appreciate you. They'll soon be singing your praises.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Making changes should be easy, but because the current full moon cuts across such an important axis of your chart you must make sure it's what you really want. You won't be able to change back again later.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
There is no point trying to keep feelings to yourself because you won't be able to. Be open about the way that you feel. If you bottle up your emotions they could explode later.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If someone is giving you a hard time, remove yourself from their presence before you do something that will make matters worse. Don't put up with immature behaviour.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Everything that needs to happen will happen when the time is right. Others will be rushing here, there and everywhere in an effort to get on top of things, but you don't have to.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a time more for thinking than for doing, so resist the urge to start something new and instead of wasting time on trivial and frivolous people, spend some quality time with your thoughts.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You may want to end a relationship but first try looking forward and asking yourself if you may later decide that you were too hasty. Full moons can play all sorts of tricks on people.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	5			2				
6		4	3		8	1		
	9	1			5		2	
	8			3		5	6	
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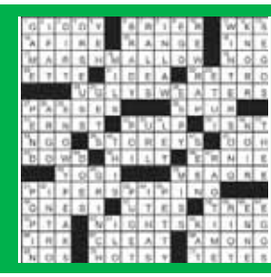

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2	7	5	1	4	6	9	8	3
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6	2	3	9	8	4	5	1	7
1	5	7	2	6	3	4	9	8
3	9	8	6	5	1	7	4	2
7	4	2	3	9	8	6	5	1
5	1	6	4	2	7	8	3	9

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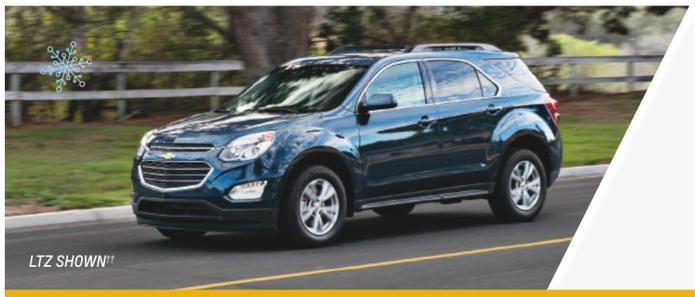

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